

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the claims were again rejected as being obvious, this time in view of a combination of the disclosures of the previously cited Hideki and Kayzuki references when combined with the newly cited Harris patent. In response, Applicants respectfully submit that all of such claims should be deemed to be allowable, as now presented in this Amendment, for the reasons set forth below.

In particular, the sheet feeding apparatus of the invention as now presented in Claim 1 requires that "said interlocking mechanism moves said regulating portion mounted on the cover relative to the cover in a retracting direction from the feeding path in association with the opening operation of the cover."

Referring now to the prior art, Applicants note that the Hideki reference does not disclose the feature in that "a regulating portion is moved relative to a cover in association with the opening operation of the cover". In this regard, the Office Action states the position that Harris discloses that when the cover is opened, the regulating portion is moved relative to the cover. However, the "arm 105" of Harris does not correspond to "a regulating portion positioned to regulate an edge of the sheet placed on said sheet supporting portion" as required in Claim 1. Harris discloses "when cover 102 is opened, arm 105 moves from upper position 206 to lower position 208 and switches the contact of switch 104 from open to closed or closed to open" in column 4, lines 13-16 element 105 is moved relative to the cover in a direction protruding into a feeding path in association with the opening operation of the cover.

As distinguished from this structure, Claim 1 requires that the interlocking mechanism moves the regulating portion relative to the cover in the direction retracting from the feeding path in association with the opening operation of the cover. Therefore, when the cover is opened in order to clear a jamming sheet, the regulating portion is less likely to hamper the jam clearance. Furthermore, according to the invention of Claim 1, the regulating portion can be moved relative to the cover in the direction retracting from the feeding path in association with the opening operation of the cover without requiring a drive system such as a motor or a solenoid.

For these various reasons, Applicants believe that the claims as now presented are allowable over the prior art, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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